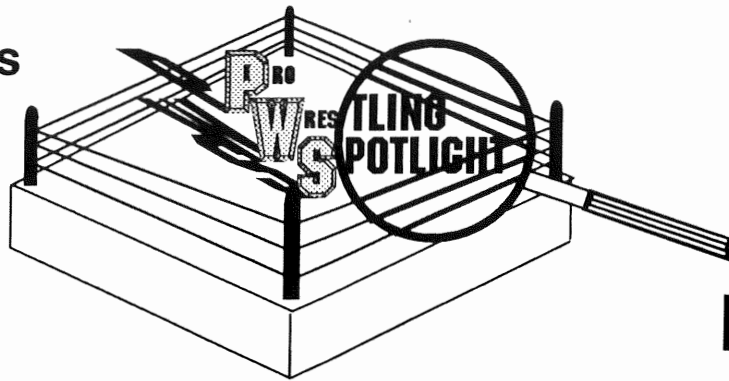


John Arezzi's



Premier
Issue

Newsletter

May 4, 1992

Volume 1, No. 1

\$1.50

This first issue of the newsletter focuses on the events that almost put me out of business. In next week's issue, we will be reprinting a two part interview I did with Alex Marvez for the *Three Count* newsletter. Also we'll get back to covering wrestling with a feature interview with Teddy Long, your letters, Mat Memories, Don Laible's Wrestling Menu, the great illustrations everyone has come to love and much more. See ya next week!

From the desk of John Arezzi...

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the first issue of my new pro wrestling newsletter. Each week I will attempt to provide you with an enjoyable mix of hard news, interviews, results, and nostalgia.

May I first give a heart felt "Thank You" to all of you who have rallied behind me during the past month, which can easily be considered the most stressful time I have ever had in the wrestling business. The phone calls, cards and letters have cheered me up and made me more determined than ever to continue on in this crazy business. I cannot answer all the letters that have come in, so I hope this "open letter" will serve as an appropriate response.

There are many of you out there receiving this newsletter, who have paid hard earned dollars to get my original newsletter effort "Pro Wrestling Spotlight Weekly", co-published by Vince Russo and myself. Since the breakup of the relationship between Russo and I, I have received letters and calls asking me what will become of the subscriptions. I can understand your feelings of frustration, not wanting the new solo Russo effort. I am willing to offer all those who subscribed to the original effort, UP TO 3 MONTHS FREE of this publication just by sending me a copy of your canceled check or money order. Since I was not in control of the incoming money, I have no idea of how much actually did come in. I hope that my offer will help ease some of the feelings you may have regarding receiving a newsletter (Russo's) that you may not want to have.

It has also come to my attention that many of you have joined the booster club and received nothing in return. I **WILL** honor **ALL** booster club memberships. Just send me a copy of your canceled check and I will take care of this as well...and PRONTO!

As far as merchandise purchases, if you sent money in for merchandise and have not received it, write me and I will try to expedite the situation by contacting Russo personally to see if your order was sent out.

You have sent a strong message to high powered organizations and headstrong individuals that you will accept nothing less than the truth. You won't tolerate being force fed wrestling coverage that is slanted. I will try to remain as objective in my coverage of pro wrestling as I always have been. I will continue to cover and try to uncover events in and out of the ring that should be covered, be it a four star match, or an illegal scandal that should be brought out to the wrestling consumer.

I will not tell you what to watch or what not to watch. Whether you are a WWF supporter, or a WCW fanatic, or if you get your wrestling kicks from watching

Continued on page 2

IWCCW, enjoy it! I do not endorse boycotts of any wrestling group. You, and you alone have the choice of what you want to watch.

As far as the future of my radio program is concerned, I will not attempt to candy coat the situation. We are on a week to week basis. The cost of the show each week (\$1,053), is a tremendous expense. We are continuing to look for sponsors and advertisers so we can remain on the air. If we go off the air from our current station, WEVD 1050-AM, New York City, We will resurface somewhere, and this publication will inform you as to where you can tune in to hear us.

In closing, I want to invite you to participate in the newsletter. I am looking for a few good columnists to contribute to this publication. I am also looking for correspondents to send in live match reports. Your feedback, in letter form, is strongly encouraged. Unfortunately, I did not get to see the vast majority of letters that were sent in to me at the Russo address, they were withheld from me. Rest assured if you have a point of view, positive or negative, I will personally receive it, if sent to the address listed below.

Thank you for your encouragement and support. You don't know how much it means to me. I will do everything I can to try not to ever let you down!

Sincerely,
John Arezzi

Send all your suggestions, columns, and letters directly to me at: Pro Wrestling Spotlight Productions, 136 North Carl Avenue, Suite 125, Babylon, New York 11702

Radio Host takes WWF to mat

TV Sports Bob Raissman

(Reprinted from New York Daily News, March 31, 1992)

Through his weekly WEVD-AM radio show and newsletter, John Arezzi has been out front reporting on allegations of steroid abuse and sexual harassment in the World Wrestling Federation. At his side has been Vince Russo, his partner of three months, and the man who made the initial investment to get the radio show and newsletter up and running.

On Sunday night, Arezzi went on the air and told his audience he and Russo had parted company. He said the split was over a major difference in philosophy. Arezzi said WWF boss Vince McMahon had effectively taken a shot at killing the messenger by running a divide-and-conquer trip on the partners. In Arezzi's mind, McMahon's message was clear - **back off** and the WWF will play ball with you.

Arezzi said the split could put the show in jeopardy. The partners were paying WEVD \$1,000 a week for airtime. Now, to keep the show up and running, Arezzi - who is having major financial problems - must find a way to come up with the cash. The breakup came at the end of a week that saw Arezzi banned from attending a WWF steroids symposium. After a few long telephone conversations, Russo was told by WWF spokesman Steve Plantamenta that he would be allowed to attend the symposium.

Arezzi saw this as a slap in the face. He told Russo he would be crashing the symposium. Upon hearing this, Russo said he would not be attending if his partner showed. Arezzi reconsidered his stance, told Russo he wouldn't crash the symposium and told Russo to attend. After all, Arezzi reasoned, the idea was to *get* the story, so he swallowed his pride.

At the symposium, Russo had his first face-to-face meeting with McMahon. The meeting, and the implications of it are, at the least curious. Sources say McMahon let Russo know that a good relationship with the WWF (i.e. Arezzi halting his pursuit of stories embarrassing to the WWF) could be beneficial to the future of the show and to the bank accounts of both Arezzi and Russo.

Russo denies this. "Vince never gave me any inkling he wanted to buy us out or support us," Russo said yesterday. "In fact, it was me who said I was unhappy with the direction the show was taking. Vince said if I was interested in pursuing further conversations, I should call his PR man and set something up."

But Arezzi contends the tone and substance of his conversation with Russo following the McMahon meeting indicate his partner was not only impressed by the WWF boss but excited over a future relationship. "He told me they gave him the red-carpet treatment," Arezzi said yesterday. "He said, 'We really have them now, Vince wants to talk.' He (Russo) said I had been spinning my wheels for 13 years in the Wrestling business and didn't have a penny to show for it. He said now was the time for me to back off and capitalize financially."

When confronted with Arezzi's story, Russo paused before issuing what amounted to a non-denial. "Look, for what John and I are doing, it is very important to have a relationship with the WWF," Russo said. "We owe it to our readers and listeners. To have no communication with the WWF was not in our best interests."

But communication is a two way street. Arezzi explained that after the initial stages of his reportage on the steroids story (when he worked on WGBB-AM in Long Island), WWF honchos refused to come on his show to give their side of the story. It was only last summer, when McMahon began mounting a well-orchestrated PR campaign to clear the air concerning the WWF and steroids, that the WWF impresario made himself available to journalists like Arezzi, who reported the story aggressively.

The irony of the story is that because wrestling is seen as entertainment, Arezzi's reporting isn't taken seriously by the sports media who - when it comes to this - come over as a bunch of elitist fools. But it *is* taken seriously by McMahon, who knows it could have an impact on his empire. An empire that is connected to media conglomerates like Fox Network, USA Network, blue-chip advertisers - whose commercials are seen on *other* entertainment properties like the NFL and Major League Baseball - and Paramount, whose MSG Network subsidiary and arena are homes to monthly WWF cards.

GET THE PICTURE? It makes all the sense in the world for McMahon to want Arezzi on his side. But one fact is clear. Arezzi's show will go on - without Russo or McMahon. The host, and *only* the host, will set the agenda.

"I believe Vince McMahon wants me off the radio," Arezzi said. "He knows I'm broke and he's trying to play on that weakness. But I'd rather be broke and out of business that take money - dirty money."

DIARY OF A MAD MAN

PART I

by JOHN AREZZI

The past month has been an incredible time to cover pro wrestling. The past two weeks have been unbelievable. In this article, I am going to try to give you a feel about what was going on in my life, as I was on the "inside" covering the unfolding events of the WWF sex scandal. The story begins in July of last year.

July 1991 - Vince McMahon's crack PR department fails to invite the wrestling media to a major press conference announcing Titan Sports' new anabolic steroid policy. I am the only wrestling journalist in attendance, "sneaking" in under an assumed name. I am contacted by Phil Mushnick of the New York Post because I have a tape of the entire press conference. Mushnick had published the first true mainstream media piece about the steroid issue and Zahorian trial on July 12th. Mushnick is outraged by the wrestling media's exclusion by the WWF, and even more angered by other mainstream reporters' "puff" stories on McMahon's steroid policy.

August 2, 1991 - A scathing article on the WWF, its press conference and press manipulation is published in the New York Post.

August 3, 1991 - An unidentified ex-WWF ring boy calls the New York Post to tell his story.

August 15, 1991 - Steve Plantamenta calls to invite me on a tour of Titan Towers and "an hour with Vince McMahon."

August 23, 1991 - Dave Meltzer, Wade Keller, yours truly and four other wrestling "journalists" meet with Vince. No one is on steroids, we are told by the man. Vince also says he was unaware that the wrestling media was uninvited to his press conference.

January 5, 1992 - David Shults and Superstar Billy Graham appear on the Pro Wrestling Spotlight with the most damaging comments leveled at Hulk Hogan and Vince McMahon to date.

January 9, 1992 - Phil Mushnick devotes his column to the Shults and Graham comments in the most explosive newspaper article yet on the WWF.

February 26, 1992 - Mushnick writes about charges of sexual abuse of former WWF ring boys. This column triggers the nation's media, many of which were preparing their own stories on the weird world of the WWF.

March 2, 1992 - Vince McMahon accepts the resignation of vice presidents Pat Patterson and Terry Garvin. The "suspension" of Mel Phillips comes shortly thereafter.

March 4, 1992 - Mushnick beats the mainstream reporters by writing about the Patterson and Garvin resignations. He is first to break the news. The explosion of mainstream media coverage is just a week away.

March 1-9, 1992 - My phone begins to ring more than ever. Each night wrestling insiders, journalists, and mainstream media professionals call to compare notes, speculate and wonder what will happen when the s__t hits the fan.

I'm visited by a WWF jobber, defending Terry Garvin. I invite him on my program. He declines. People Magazine calls looking for photos. "Now It Can Be Told" has been calling for

two weeks digging for information. The CBS Evening News calls and sets a lunch date for March 13th to discuss a feature they are doing called "Eye on America." And I am trying to raise money to pay for my radio show, as always. I tell Dave Meltzer, "the mainstream media are like sharks, feeding on a corpse."

March 10, 1992 - Irv Muchnick (no relation to Phil) of the Village Voice (also co-author of the People Magazine story) writes about Murray Hodgson, the announcer suing the WWF for wrongful termination of employment and sexual harassment. I'm told the San Diego Union Tribune story will be published tomorrow. "Brace yourself, here we go," I tell Meltzer.

March 11, 1992 - The San Diego story comes out. I receive a call from Michael Shain of the New York Post requesting an interview.

March 12, 1992 - The L.A. Times runs their Hulk Hogan exposé. The New York Post article headlined on the front page, appearing opposite the most widely read page in the paper "page 6" is published. The mainstream media calls do not stop. Channel 11, WPIX, is the first to call. "Can we interview you at 2 PM." "Sure," I say. WNBC-TV, Philadelphia Evening Magazine, CBS Evening News, Ed Glavine of the Donohue Show, and CNN's Larry King Show all follow. I give Larry King's producer Bruno Sammartino's phone number. I go home numb!

March 13, 1992 - Ed Glavine calls from Donohue. I'm booked for Monday's show. Dave Meltzer calls to tell me he's coming to New York. He, Barry Orton and Billy Graham will be in the studio live Sunday for my radio show. Vince Russo informs me the midgets will go on the show Sunday as well. Lunch with CBS-TV at Mickey Mantle's restaurant. They are shocked when I give them a synopsis of what has been going on. They agree to send a camera crew to film my entire show on Sunday evening. The Larry King Show airs with the first live confrontation between Bruno Sammartino and Vince McMahon, who should have been introduced as Pinocchio. Among his statements were that Mel Phillips worked only as an occasional laborer, that Hodgson had never worked for the WWF, and that no WWF wrestlers were on steroids. Bruno was over anxious, just too hungry for this opportunity, but put Vince in his place several times. Barry Orton was also on via telephone, but unable to effectively participate in the program due to being on a seven-second delay hook up.

March 14, 1992 - I confirm Bruno, Billy Jack Hayes, Billy Graham, Lord Littlebrook, Karate Kid, Barry Orton and Dave Meltzer for the Sunday, March 15th PWS radio show.

March 15, 1992 - On the PWS radio show Billy Graham accuses Vince McMahon of "fondling his arm in a sexual manner" in 1986. Karate Kid accuses Pat Patterson of sexual advances, Lord Littlebrook accuses the WWF of no longer using midgets again after the Karate Kid/Patterson incident, Billy Jack Hayes tells the audience about a nightmarish trip with Hulk Hogan among other accusations leveled at the WWF, Barry Orton is much more specific with his accusations and feelings on sexual harassment. It is the most explosive show to date.

March 16, 1992 - A limo picks me up at 1 PM to take me to the Donohue studios. I am the second person to arrive at the NBC studios. Murray Hodgson is the first. As I introduce myself to Murray an assistant comes in and informs us that Vince McMahon, who had previously declined the invitation, will indeed be there as a guest. Vince would only accept if

DIARY OF A MAD MAN

PART 2

By JOHN AREZZI

David Shults would be excluded. Bruno shows up next, he is elated that Vince will be there. Tom Harkins comes in, followed by Barry O., Billy Graham and Dave Meltzer. "So, you're Meltzer," Bruno says as he shakes Dave's hand at their first face to face meeting. It's an historic day, is the only feeling I have. About ten minutes before air time Phil Donohue comes into our "green room" with Vince McMahon in tow. Donohue introduces himself and goes over the ground rules of the show. "How you doing guys," meekly says McMahon. There is no response from anyone, but the tension in the room speaks for itself. I'm standing shoulder to shoulder with Vince and you can feel his nervous energy. He is uneasy. The producer gets the first guests, Vince, Hodgson, Harkins and Orton for segment number one, a round table discussion.

Bruno, Graham, Dave and I watch the round table discussion with interest. A soda flies at the monitor in the "green room." McMahon against Hodgson was better than any Pay Per View I have ever seen. Murray ate Vince for lunch. Vince is soundly defeated in his debate with Murray over his termination in the WBF.

A panel is assembled for segment number two. Initially Bruno was to be seated next to Vince, but refused, saying he would not be responsible for his actions if he had to sit next to McMahon.

McMahon admitted that "the possibility of sexual harassment in the WWF existed," something he flatly denied on Larry King. He also said Mel Phillips was someone "who wasn't actually an employee, although he did work with us almost every day." Huh? I confronted Vince about Hulk's Arsenio Hall appearance, asking him if he said he was "devastated" by Hulk's comments on Arsenio? Vince denied saying he was devastated, until Dave Meltzer told him, "That's the word you used to me, Vince," which drew a response from the crowd.

Billy Graham and Bruno were confrontational, as expected. The overall feeling was that Vince came out of it not as invulnerable as he usually appears to be, but not 100% a beaten man either. Vince leaves the studio with his wife Linda, Miss Elizabeth, Basil Devito, and two youngsters, later identified as Tom Cole and his brother. Later that night I learned that Vince settled with Cole for \$70,000 plus the return of his job.

March 17, 1992 - The word spreads about the Cole settlement. Mushnick calls and is outraged, he plans another column.

March 18, 1992 - I appear on the Bill Mazer Morning Show on WEVD-AM and the Z-100 morning show. I am interviewed by Philadelphia Evening Magazine for a piece to air on March 26th.

March 20, 1992 - I am interviewed by "News of the World" newspaper in England.

March 21, 1992 - I appear on the Pro Wrestling Today TV show with Steve Mueller.

March 22, 1992 - I finish this diary, hoping that some good has come from all of this, and wondering what the next day will bring for the wrestling business.

This is the unexpected second part of my diary chronicles, the week of the break up of my partnership with Vince Russo, and the struggle to keep my program on the air.

March 23, 1992 - (Late Sunday-Early Monday) The phone rings in the wee hours of the morning. A good friend of mine tells me of the Titan Sports steroid symposium booked at the Plaza Hotel. I'm told if I attempt to show up, I wouldn't be let in. I tell my friend I will show up anyway.

Later in the day I call my partner Vince Russo and tell him of the symposium. He calls me back and tells me of a conversation he has with WWF PR honcho Steve Plantamenta. Plantamenta agrees to send us a video tape of the symposium. As I'm on the phone with Russo, Plantamenta calls him back. Russo hangs up on me to talk to Plantamenta. A few minutes later, Russo informs me that Vince McMahon has invited him to come to the symposium, on one condition, that he shows up "alone." I become irate. I've been on top of this story for almost a year and I'm being shut out on covering an important development. I'm also not to happy with Russo for not defending my right to be there. We bicker back and forth. I ask for Dave Meltzer's opinion in a three way call between Dave, Russo and myself. Meltzer agrees that I should show up. Russo says he will not go if I intend on showing up, because he says it would "embarrass" him. After much thought, I agreed not to show up, and I feel I am being set up by the WWF in a plot of "divide-and-conquer" between my partner and myself.

March 24, 1992 - The day of the symposium. I do not hear from Vince Russo all day, nor do I attempt to contact him.

March 25, 1992 - Russo calls me in the early afternoon and says we must get together to talk about what happened yesterday. I go to the office and we talk. After briefly going over the symposium, Russo has a lot to say. He tells me that the WWF treated him very nicely at the symposium. Steve Plantamenta, Linda McMahon, Shane McMahon and Vincent K. McMahon himself all spent time with him. In fact, Vince Jr. spent a good 30-40 minutes with Russo. My main thought was, WHY? Russo then rattles off a number of statements which in turn, rattle me. He tells em that I've worked very hard on the steroid and sex stories, and it's time to drop the ball. He says that McMahon told him, "We don't realize how much fun a wrestling talk show could be." He tells me that Vince McMahon would meet with both of us to discuss ways we could "work together", to promote wrestling. He paints a very pretty picture, a picture telling me that a very nice financial situation could be awaiting both of us because "we've got the WWF by the balls." I immediately knew that I was looking at a person who has no business being associated with me. I feel like getting up and punching him in the face, but I play along with him, saying I would meet with McMahon, and to set up a meeting through Plantamenta. I drive home sick to my stomach. I call a very few trusted friends, who all agree I'm dead in the water. Because of my financial situation, they are holding all the cards. I don't sleep all night. I will not sell out.

March 26, 1992 - I begin making calls to some folks, desperately looking for someone to back me financially, as I am preparing for a split with Russo, who I don't even want to

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See page 6 for details on how to receive John Arezzi's Pro Wrestling Spotlight Newsletter each and every week, so you won't be left in the dark!

speak to. Russo calls me to suggest Dr. Mario DePasquale come on the radio show as a guest. He got Mario's number from Steve Plantamenta. I think to myself that the WWF is already dictating who should be a guest on my show. Russo also wants to bring on Skull Von Krus, a lute wrestler from Johnny Rodz's wrestling school, who coincidentally, Russo is going to "manage" at an upcoming Rodz show. I spend several hours getting information on DePasquale, reading the WWF steroid symposium literature and listening to a cassette of the symposium. DePasquale sounds like a mad scientist to me on the tape, and his monotone voice is sure to turn off my listeners. I'm considering bringing on Murray Hodgson as another guest to "open" the show on Sunday. I'm on pins and needles. What will tomorrow bring?

March, 27, 1992 - Russo calls me about 11am to tell me he's booked DePasquale. He also tells me he wants to have equal time on the show Sunday night to talk about how unprofessional Phil Mushnick of the New York Post was. I flatly deny the request, telling him that I would debate him on Mushnick, but would not allow him to editorialize about Phil. In closing I tell him to read the New York Post today as Mushnick wrote another WWF piece about the symposium. We hang up and I am getting angrier and angrier. A meeting with McMahon? Booking DePasquale on the show? Wanting equal time to blast Phil Mushnick? What the hell happened to Russo? Or did I even know this guy at all?

Five minutes or so pass and Russo calls me up screaming. He is accusing me of feeding Phil Mushnick "lies" for his column. I stop him in the middle of his tirade and warn him never to accuse me of anything again. I get Phil Mushnick on a three way conversation to prove to this idiot that I didn't feed Mushnick any information on the symposium, as I was not there. Mushnick sets Russo straight, but Russo starts laying into Phil on his WWF coverage. When Mushnick fires back, Russo hangs up on both of us.

I've had just about as much as I'm going to take. I call Russo up to tell him I am on my way to see him. I ask my brother in law to come with me as a witness.

I get to the office and tell Russo I don't want to be associated with him any longer and that I don't care what the WWF hinted to him, I want no part of it, or him. He is seething. He tells me I've been spinning my wheels in wrestling for years and I'm broke. His final words to me were, "You're going to be broke for the rest of your life!" As he gets up, he crumples up a copy of the New York Post, kicks the door to the office open and leaves. I take my belongings and leave, uncertain about how I will continue, yet as if a weight has been lifted from me.

As soon as I get home, I start calling fans from WEVD radio. Russo was calling there, telling them I was out, and he was going to take the show over. He wanted to take two weeks off and then come back with a show, that he was alluding to the station, could be sponsored by the WWF.

By the grace of God, the last contract signed with the station had my signature on it, therefore giving me the airtime for Sunday's show. I was lucky to have an ally at the station who went to bat for me. Russo calls the station and says he wanted to go back on the station immediately and not miss a week. He is informed that I will maintain control of the show and he was out. He goes berserk on the phone.

March 29, 1992 - I go on the air with my story - which in turn, strikes a cord with my listeners. They offer their support, and I strive to continue on!



WCW held a show at the Meadowlands Arena in New Jersey on March 31, 1992. The following match report is submitted by David Kalmus (AKA Killer Kalmus) and Pete Theophall (AKA Pete Paduski.)

Mike Graham vs. Richard Morton

Basic boring preliminary match. Ricky used ropes at end for roll-up cover up. Everyone wanted the match to end, including the timekeeper, who rang the bell at the 2.3 count. Bring back Sy Coco. Rating:* (being generous)

Note: Ring and ring apron had no sound; body slams seemed to go into oblivion, and there was no closed captioned for the hearing impaired. It was turned up later, but the lack of sound was a distraction.

Mr. Hughes and Vinnie Vegas vs. Big Josh and Ron Simmons

Good match. Looked like amateur night though, V.V. and Hughes obviously come up short on a few punches. Hughes started arguing with a Ralph Kramden look-alike in the crowd, which was a scream.

Everyone in the crowd was wondering who he was. Hughes was hoisted over Simmons' head and went flying. He had more airlift than a 747. Hughes gave a BIG elbow drop to Josh off the top turnbuckle, looked like King Kong on the Empire state Building. After he landed, he gave a safe sign, as if telling the crowd he was okay. Simmons power slammed Hughes and pinned him with V.V. out of the ring brawling with the Josh man. Hughes fought the whole match with sunglasses on, and after it all, gave the Italian salute to the fans in attendance. He most likely would not be welcome in Hoboken. a fun match. Rating:***

Cactus Jack vs. Johnny B. Badd

A lot of bangs before the match, during, and after the match, which pleased those Cactus fans to no end. I know, cause I was sitting next to one of them. Cactus launched a ball of phlegm 15.8 feet in the air and caught it in his mouth. Beautiful. Mothers in the crowd were now wondering why they brought their kids to see this. Mostly boxing at the beginning. Badd looks like he could do well against some of the top contenders. Cactus then started to treat Badd like a wet towel, wringing him on an outside railing and then beating him on a chair. Apparently, Cactus wasn't getting enough physical pain from Johnny, so he started hitting himself with a chair, a la Blassie. Match continued in Cactus' favor, and when both did a double flip over the top rope, Cactus gave an apron to cement elbow that immobilized Badd. The double flip was given a 9.8 from this judge. Badd eventually crawled back into the ring and was immediately kicked out by a sliding into home Cactus. Badd was knocked into ring post and was counted out. Good action, these guys know how to put on a show. Rating:****

BUNKHOUSE TAG TEAM MATCH

Barry Windham with a replacement for Dustin Rhodes vs. Zbyszko and Steve Austin

First of all, it was announced that Rhodes was injured so there was a replacement. This unknown requested a rule change. Just before you knew the answers they change the questions. Originally it was a Lights Out Over the Top Rope Match. For

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10.00

Pro Wrestling Spotlight Monthly October 1991
(Fred Blassie, Buddy Rogers, Terry Funk, Bruno)

10.00

Pro Wrestling Spotlight Monthly November 1991
(Explosive Eddie Gilbert interview)

10.00

Pro Wrestling Spotlight Monthly December 1991 (X-Mas show, Missy Hyatt, Cactus Jack)	10.00
Pro Wrestling Spotlight - Debut Show WEVD (Explosive debut with Billy Graham, David Shults)	10.00
Pro Wrestling Spotlight Monthly February 1992 (Jesse Ventura Show)	10.00
Pro Wrestling Spotlight March 15, 1992 (2 hour blockbuster WWF sex scandal explodes. Billy Jack Hayes, Dave Meltzer, Barry O., Billy Graham, Lord Littlebrook, Karate Kid)	20.00
BEST OF Cactus Jack on P W S	15.00
BEST OF Paul E Dangerously on P W S	15.00
Cactus Jack on Howard Stern (August '91) (with Fred "the elephant boy")	15.00
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Babylon, New York 11702
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those who do not know, a bunkhouse match is this: You can wear anything, bring anything, use it, anything goes in the ring brawl. AND IT WAS! Before going any further, the surprise partner of Wyndham came in with a towel over his head. Mike Tyson? NOT! It was JYD. Both were wearing T-shirts with WCW and sports bar logos on. JYD's shirt was a little small, he probably ordered the shirt before downing a few pepperoni pizza's. And back to the show; Wyndham immediately taped (not scotch, but duct) Z's wrists and ankles to the ropes in a corner. The ref who basically had nothing to do being a no holds barred match, got too close and was taped up as well. I almost blew a blood vessel in my head from laughing, but it got better. In order of appearance, there were the following articles thrown in and used during the match:

Article	Use
An orange	Stuffed in Z's mouth, then exploded into Austin's face.
A broom	Used as a baseball bat and a stick. JYD gave his Ricky Henderson imitation and slammed the broom into Z and Austin when Wyndham would do his Dwight Gooden and whip them at JYD. Must be spring.
A fire extinguisher	Used by Wyndham. He sprayed Z and Austin. Z looked like Kramden when he got wet from Tommy's water pistol when Ziggy nailed him. Think the ref got it also.
Powder	Both baby and talcum, used by both sides, throughout the match. Amazing that it just happened to be by ringside.
Wood	Pine molding, of various lengths and thicknesses, was used liberally throughout the match. When JYD brought these in with the broom, I lost it.
Chairs	In and out of the ring, common foreign objects.
Railings	Out of ring, the rest as above.
Hefty bag	Used to suffocate JYD.

Lots and lots of nut shots. Not many babies being made tonight. Complete mayhem. The end came when Wyndham cracked a 2x4 over Z's back, and pinned him. The 2x4 broke. After the match, Z and Austin came after Wyndham, who promptly DDT'ed both of them. They were stacked one on top of the other on a stretcher and carted away. Double Decker stretcher. Wyndham threw the broom into the ring which was a mess at this point. The announcer said it was time for intermission so they could clean up. A picture is worth a thousand words seeing the shape of the ring. Beautiful.

Quoting Pedro Morales, this match had lots of "any kine-o-axon." Is this a match or what? It fit into the "or what" category. Very enjoyable. Rating *****

Bagwell vs. Big Van Vader

Vader is HUGE! However, he was not the biggest in the arena. There were many women who would have tipped the scales in their favor. From the beginning, Bagwell was totally out of his league. B.V.V. spit in his face, and Bagwell tried to hit, kick, punch, twist, rake, but to no avail. Totally ineffective. B.V.V. pummeled him, and slammed him so hard that Bagwell

bounced at least a foot off the apron, from a clothesline. The crowd gasped as the B.V.V. gave an Irish whip into a turn-buckle and SPLASHED Bagwell, big time. Bagwell went for a reverse pin, but B.V.V. just sat on him and squashed him like a grape. You could have counted to 100. Total destruction by Vader. Rating:**1/2*

Diamond Dallas Page (from Jersey Shore?) vs. Taylor Made Man

Page announced from shore area. Iffy at best. Sat in corner with bubble gum, and spit it out at a large ringside fan. Page played the heel. Also, ring made more sound, Prof. Elliot turned it up? Probably due to lack of action. Shouts of boos at the 5 minute mark. Note: For all matches, time elapsed was announced at % minute intervals. A Byrne arena specialty? Page clothesline Taylor on the rope with Taylor's neck snapping back. Taylor came back (you've come mmmback) and snapped Page's neck back, Page executing a Flair Flop, rated a (.725 by Paduski. Taylor wins with a flying shoulder block and a pin. Mostly boring. Rating:1/2*

TAG TEAM TITLE MATCH Steiner Bros. vs. Arn Anderson and Beautiful Bobby (with Medusa at ringside)

Madusa went into ring and the Dogfaced Gremlin (Rick Steiner) got into a doggie position and went to pee on her! Marking his territory I suppose. At this point, a mother and son who were sitting behind us disappeared. Later, Anderson was bit on the ass by Dog face, and showed a half moon. Bobby was thrown off the top rope from Rick into Scott's (Steiner) arms and power slammed that caused Richter needles to move in Denver. Anderson immediately called for time, but as we know, there is no time out in professional wrestling. Steiner showed great acrobatics, when Anderson lowered the top rope, Rick went sailing over the clubhouse. Bobby gave a great clothesline off the top rope (to Rick) and got a 2.89 count. Arn DDT'ed the Dogfaced Gremlin, Rick seemed to be in the doghouse most of the time. Madusa entered the ring and was promptly thrown out by Scott. Scott Frankensteinered Bobby, and when Paul E. Dangerously threw brass knuckles into the ring. Arn and Co. was DQ'ed. Quote from Scott Steiner after match calling for Anderson and Bobby to return to the ring to get their belts, "If you two chicken shits want the belt, come in here and get it." Lots of action. Rating:****

TITLE MATCH Sting vs. Rick Rude

Rude comes in to the ring to massive boos. He was cut off 8 times after saying, "What I'd like to have...", and the finally got off the following, "Fat, ugly, out of shape, inner city, scum sucking, sleaze bags...", I started looking around, and he was right! However, he irked the crowd further saying, "Go to hell, New Jersey!" Many objects thrown into the ring from all corners of the arena at this point. Sting, unannounced, surprises Rude and taps him on the shoulder. Rude turns around and Sting starts wailing away, DDT's Rude, and breaks Paul E.'s phone. Hope it wasn't an AT&T. Rude crouched outside railing and smashed into table. Rude came back with an eye poke. Heard someone in front of me say that those eye pokes always work. Who am I to argue? Sting straddled over Rude, imitated Rude to the joy of the crowd. Rude then gave knee to nuts. OOOOOO, I felt it from 135.2 feet away. Sting fell outside the ring, and was worked over by Paul E. Back in the ring, Rude from top rope sends Sting's face into mat. Sting reverses, and gives Rude a Rude awakening. Count at 2.8. Sting caught going from top rope with fist in stomach. Rude blew snot on Sting. Sting went NUTS. Rude took advantage

of Sting's insanity and put a sleeper hold on him. Arn check at 2. Sting reverses and tries to put a sleeper hold on, but Rude picks his head up and gives Sting a jawbreaker. Sting wakes up and clotheslines Rude from all corners of the ring in rapid succession. Sting rolls up Rude off the ropes after Paul E., who wants to fight, is deposited on the cement floor by a flying Rude. Good action, good audience for the last match. Rude makes a good heel. Rating:****

Overall, a good card. Population 4000-5000. Luminaries in attendance included John Arezzi (well-known wrestling journalist and radio talk show host), Fred the Elephant Boy (guest announcer for the Cactus/Badd match), Georgiann Markopoulos ("Wrestling Chatterbox" newsletter) and a few Guardian Angels (who must have been friends of Paul E. - they visited with him after the show was over for a few minutes before leaving the arena). The Carvel ice cream cone was good also. Overall Rating:***1/2*

THE WRESTLING MENU

By *DONNY LAIBLE*

Is the booker's position for the World Wrestling Federation still unfilled? On the level now, if Pat Patterson wouldn't be involved in decision making anymore, my guess is McMahon would be looking for a wonderfully, creative mind with a proven track record to step in as his right-hand man. Now I ask you - is anyone more worthy and qualified than "Hot stuff" Eddie Gilbert?

During the Larry King Show with Vince And Bruno Sammartino last month, how many of you remember seeing clips of Big John Studd tangling with football's William "The Refrigerator" Perry from the Wrestle Mania 2 Battle Royal? Don't count Studd out of returning to the WWF in some capacity within a year or to make a friendly introduction phone call to World Championship Wrestling once his knee is healed.

I've just received a call from Kelly Shaw, wife of Norman the Lunatic (Mike Shaw). Working in Mexico for the EMLL promotion as Aaron Grundy, Mike's tour has been extended to the Middle of May...How many of you wrestling scholars are aware that it was Lanny Poffo who "discovered" The One Man Gang? When Lanny's dad Angelo Poffo was operating his International Championship Wrestling in the late 1970's and early 1980's, the "Leaping One" put the tag Crusher Broomfield on him. At the time in their promotion there was another wrestler labeled the One Man gang - that being Ronnie Garvin...And while we are on the topic of Poffo's ICW, at the time Randy Savage was managed by Rip Rogers' significant other, Brenda Britton who was called Ms. Macho Man.

Here's one for your match results file. The Honky Tonk Man is among the chosen who can claim to have gone one-on-one with the Immortal Lou Thesz. It's true, as Paul Harvey would say. It was for promoter Henry Rogers' NWAA in 1978 at Odell's Skating Rink in East Prairie, Missouri where the two exchanged holds. Honky at that time was going by the name Wayne Ferris. Many great stars had their start in the sport, thanks to Henry Rogers - including Eddie Gilbert and Koko B. Ware.

By far the top wrestling memorabilia collection that I know of and have seen on video belongs to John Pantozzi of Franklin Square, New York...Here's something every wrestling collection is crying out for, the Lou Thesz Pictorial Bibliog-

raphy Book 2. The 183 page black and white paperback was compiled by Japanese wrestling journalist Koji Miyamoto. Send a check or money order for \$40.00 to: C. Thesz, P.O. Box 8686, Norfolk, Virginia 23503.

Okay, for those of you who saw Captain Lou Albano on FOX's HIDDEN VIDEO on March 20 - what is your honest opinion of his appearance? My thoughts, as big a fan of Lou's as I am, were that his actions were embarrassing to the sport and to himself...Back in December 1981 in Crockett territory an "L.A. Showdown" match was run, any ideas on what the special stipulations could have been?...Ran across a newspaper picture of Actor Richard Dean Anderson (MacGyver) recently and if Richard wasn't the spitting image of WCW Event Coordinator Gary Juster, then I'll start placing bets on wrestling matches.

Interesting that "Superstar" Billy Graham has been the only one to bring up the late Rick McGraw's name in conjunction with all the past alleged drug usage (steroids and others)...But what I want to hear and are surely to be great stories to listen to are from former WWF TV Commentator Craig DeGeorge. Should he ever talk, I wonder if the cement in Titan Towers would begin to crack?...Here are a few more aliases for your enjoyment - Ivan the Terrible - Pampero Firpo - Lightning R. Jones - Sonny King, The Jungle Tiger - Johnny Rodz, and manager Kay Armstrong. - Ernie Roth (The Grand Wizard)...Don't know about your opinions but I can't wait to see the return of Steve Williams and Terry Gordy to WCW...Kevin Sullivan and The Sheik working for FMW in Japan, now I ask you, has a better professional alliance ever been created?

Now: on to our Plug-O-Gram materials

Fantasy Federation is published by Jeffrey Cohen, 50 Shelly Lane, Great Neck, NY 11023. Interesting fictional matchups are described such as The Nutcracker vs. Hulk Hogan complete with commentary from Jesse and Lance Russell. A unique and fun newsletter. The MENU help sign is being flashed for Anthony Scala, P.O. Box 22-0549, Brooklyn, NY 11222. Whenever the WWF is scheduled to have TV tapings in the NY, NJ and CT areas, please let him know as far in advance as possible...John Lanigan, P.O. Box 583, McKeesport, PA 15134 is "Mr. Video" when it comes to offering wrestling tapes - write for his list...Billy Anderson is offering T-shirts, sweatshirts and tank-tops of his wrestling school. For prices and sizes contact him at: P.O. Box 6721, San Bernardino, CA 92412 or call (714)825-9750...Gary Will, 55 Carolina Street N., #901, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada N2L 6B9 is compiling a history of title holders from the 1970's and would appreciate all your help...Autograph collectors write to Ray Gore, P.O. Box 263, Wilbraham, MA 01095. Ray is in search of Bill Watts, Angelo Mosca, Ernie Ladd and several other addresses...Any Andre the Giant memorabilia floating around should be directed to Mike Benasky, 15 Wellington Road, Medford, MA 02155...Female wrestling fans are urged to get in touch with Darryl Bruff, Route 1 Box 96-C-5, Huron, TN 38345 - Darryl's always on the look out for videos.

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MAT MEMORIES

by John Arezzi

This mat memory will be a little different from the previous columns. Today I won't be talking about a classic wrestling encounter, nor an experience covering wrestling. I am going to share with you my personal memories that I have of Mel Phillips.

Mel Phillips in the middle of the most sickening scandal in the history of professional wrestling. His name has been mentioned in the national media linked and alleged to the most heinous of crimes - child abuse. If Mel is guilty of what has been alleged, he should pay dearly. What I will now inform you of is my own personal experiences with Mel Phillips, someone I have known for eighteen years.

I first met Mel Phillips in June 1974 in Atlanta, Georgia. I was attending my first wrestling convention, promoted by the WFIA (Wrestling Fans International Association), an annual gathering of fans and wrestling professionals to honor each other and talk about the business. I was fortunate enough to be the recipient that two years of awards, the best monthly fan publication, and fan club of the year (both for my work as president of the Fred Blassie Fan Club). That same convention awarded Mel Phillips the honor being "Fan of the Year."

That weekend I became friends with Mel Phillips. He was just breaking into the business as a "ring boy" for the WWWF. His goal was to be a ring announcer.

After the convention I started running into Mel at many of the local shows I attended in New York. A friendship was developing. He was working "inside" the business. Even though a ring boy or gopher wasn't a high position, I respected him because he "knew" all the wrestlers. Many times he provided transportation for the wrestlers, taking them from city to city.

In January of 1975, I ventured to Philadelphia for the first time for the WWWF's TV tapings at the old arena on Market Street. It was here that Mel introduced me to a number of people, mostly girls who dated various wrestlers. I developed some close friendships with those girls, a few of which I still speak to today. Mel would always try to persuade me to go to Hamburg, PA with him. Hamburg was another town where the WWWF would hold TV tapings the day after the Philadelphia tapings. He was always persistent, saying he would pay for the hotel and expenses. I would always politely say no.

Mel began to work more regularly for the WWWF in late 1975-1976, and I still considered him my friend. In fact, during my freshman year of college, Mel would visit me occasionally, and be a guest on my radio show on the campus station. It was during these visits I began to notice a strange habit of Mel's. He would always seek out one of my best friends at school and "wrestle" him. I thought nothing of it at the time.

Mel spent New Year's Eve of 1975 with my family. The day he arrived he proudly showed off a new video tape camera and recorder. Now, this was before video tape cassettes were on the market. This device was a reel to reel recorder, which was rare for any consumer to have. After reading recent allegations in the newspapers, this guy having video equipment back then makes you think.

During the summer of 1976, Mel came to visit me in New York on a handful of occasions. On all these trips he was accompanied by a young boy, who was about 15 years old. I began to question him about this kid. Mel would reply that the youngster was underprivileged, and had a bad home life and

he was looking out for him. On these visits I would often wonder why Mel would always wind up "wrestling" with my neighbors two young boys.

It was also during this summer that I made two trips from Philadelphia to Hamburg with Mel. On both occasions there was only one bed in the hotel room where we stayed. I slept on the floor on both occasions.

My friendship with Mel Phillips began to drift apart in the winter of 1976. I was back in college for my second year, and was going out with Mary Rachele, a young woman from Massachusetts. Mel came up to visit me and felt insulted that I would rather spend my time with Mary than with him. I was getting weird vibes from him and was glad when he left.

From the winter of 1976 through the next few years, I began to notice, more and more, young boys always hanging around with Mel Phillips. It seemed strange to me.

After my pro wrestling "debut" in January of 1978, I began spending less and less time hanging around the business. On the few occasions I would travel to northeast arenas and bump into Mel, it was cordial, not friendly. He was always preoccupied with his group of ring boys that he was now supervising.

My recent experiences with Mel Phillips have not been pleasant. Since my return to the business in 1989 I've heard the stories and been repulsed by them. On the few occasions I actually have spoken to him, the first thing he would ask me is "How are the Stenifords?" The Stenifords were the two young boys who lived next door to me sixteen years ago.

Perhaps I should feel grateful. I spent a lot of time with Mel Phillips in the 1970's, and thank God, I was not put in a position which would have embarrassed me and would have put his life in jeopardy. Today I shudder when I think about it. I just hope he seeks some professional help.

We want to hear your Mat Memories. Send them to: Mat Memories, c/o The Pro Wrestling Spotlight Productions, 136 North Carl Avenue, Suite 125, Babylon, New York 11702

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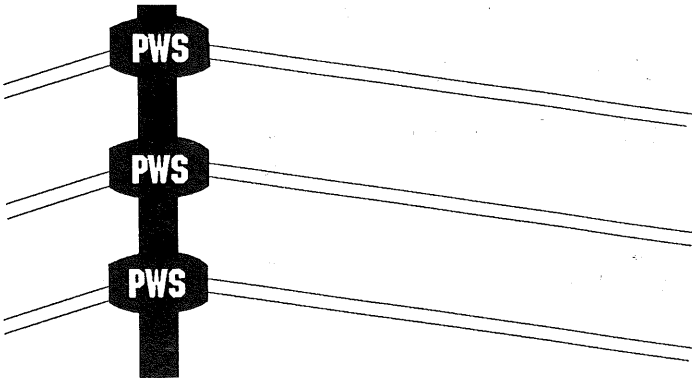
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And in this Corner.....



Send your comments to: And in this Corner..., c/o Pro Wrestling Spotlight Productions, 136 N. Carll Avenue, Suite 125, Babylon, NY 11702

Dear Mr. Arezzi,

Hello! I listened to your radio show for the first time three weeks ago, when the "sexual harassment" story first broke. Naturally, I had to listen to it the next two weeks also (I had originally read about it in the Boston Herald). I was sorry to hear about your difficulties with your former partner, but you are an excellent host and facilitator and I'm sure that now that you have full control, your newsletter and radio show will be better than ever. I look forward to receiving the first issue.

I love all sports, but I have a particular fondness for professional wrestling, I think because my grandmother liked it so much. My cousin Gail Champine and I began going to matches in early 1979, when I graduated from college. We soon met Lou Albano, and he fast became our favorite wrestler. He's a lot of fun to be with, and always treats the fans with respect (not something I can say about every wrestler I have met). If you see him please tell him we miss him here in the Northeast, and hope he comes to visit us soon!

It sounds as if you have a variety of promotions in your area. It seems as though if we want to see wrestling more than a few times a year, we always have to drive so far! We have WWF (of course) and sometimes the Savoldi's wrestling organization is here (is it the ICCW? I never could get the name right, but I do like Angelo and Mario Savoldi personally so I try to catch the show). Actually, the WWF just had a big show here in Portland, but Hogan was the headliner, and in all honesty I find his performances quite dull, so I didn't go. I like wrestlers who are showmen and can wrestle. I am, however, saddened by this latest WWF scandal. I believe Mr. Orton, and I think what happened to him was terrible. I have though, met some nice people associated with the WWF, and I feel sorry for them, too. Everyone associated with the WWF will be tainted by this. I hope you will be keeping us up to date on this issue.

Sincerely,
Ann Marie Duguay
Old Orchard, ME

John, I've just gotten through listening to your 3/29 show. I've been a loyal listener since your WNYG days. I've won several contests and attended several bus trips, as well as both conventions. I tried to get through to you on the air that night but was unable to. I just want to offer you my continuing support for your efforts.

You've been through this adversity before, and it's too bad Russo turned out to be the way he did, but what can you do? If there is anything else that I can do to help you with anything, the newsletter, radio show, anything, just let me know...Again, good luck. We're with you all the way...Keep up the excellent work!

Thank You
Mike Brown
Seaford, NY

Dear John,

I have just finished listening to your show on 3/28. I heard you inform the wrestling fans that listen to your show of the breakup with your association with Vince Russo. I stand behind your views and opinions of this situation 100%. I believe from your account of the breakup that Vince was out to make a quick buck in the wrestling business as fast as he could. He was wrong to sell out to the WWF in the manner that he did. He wanted to screw over the fans just to make some fast money in the short run. In the long run he would have tarnished you and your shows name as far as the wrestling community is concerned.

I commend you on your actions in regards to this situation and have found more respect for you as a journalist because you have chosen to stick to your guns and report on wrestling without being biased toward one wrestling promotion over another one.

I am glad you did not sell out to Vince Russo and Vince McMahon's iracy to sabotage your well respected radio show.

I wish you all the best in your radio show and your upcoming live remotes at the Press Box cafe that I will be attending. I will also offer you my help in any manner that I could be of assistance to you in the future including volunteering to help you with your big convention in August at the Ramada Hotel.

I look forward to subscribing to your newsletter and becoming a booster club member to your show in the very near future.

Vince Russo will fail in wrestling now since he screwed you over because no one will trust him any longer and will not renew their subscription to his version of PWSW newsletter. Since he no longer has a public forum on your show he will cease in the wrestling business and all the promises the WWF made to him will just turn out to be lies on their part and he will just fade away and be back to running video stores and be out of the wrestling business for good. In my opinion you did the right thing even though it means a huge financial loss as far as yourself and your radio show are concerned. Keep up the good work John! As I said before, let me know if I can do anything to help you in the future.

Sincerely Yours,
Craig Herold
Glendale, NY

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